

# GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.



SUMMER 2005

P.O. BOX 639 • ROME CITY, IN 46784

## From the President

..... John Kessen

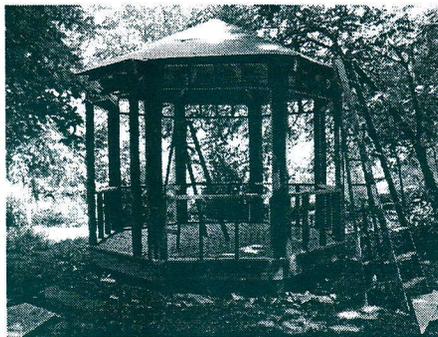
This is a year that is filled with change. It is the second newsletter in a row that I must start by informing you of bad news. On Monday, May 2, 2005 Pat Bolman, the naturalist at the site was killed instantly in an automobile accident. He served the site for over twelve years. His death was most untimely because the next day we started our school field trips for May. Pat loved to do the field trips and the young people loved him. It was difficult to replace him at the last moment and for the staff to give them the positive feeling our site is known to provide. Cheri who had worked with Pat on the trips for over four years took over and had the able assistance of Jim from our staff and our Porter volunteers. Everything kept on the track the way Pat would have wanted it. Pat always had a smile and friendly comment. He was willing to do almost anything to help. We really miss him.

Our annual meeting was a great success this year. We have a new board member to introduce to you. She is Cindy O'Brien. Cindy has always had an interest in the site, but not enough time to volunteer the way she would like. Now Cindy is retired and is in the midst of things.

The program for the annual meeting was really outstanding. We had a presentation by ninth grade students from Westview School Corporation in Topeka. Margo Varner the teacher in charge of a special project regarding Gene Stratton Porter worked with a team of teachers to help the youth understand and interpret Gene. They spent a lot of time at the site and encountered the swamp experience. The project covered the subject areas of English, Science and Art. As part of the project they constructed many things such as games, art work and explained about things of nature and science they observed. They discussed endangered species and methane gas. It was a great evening.

The gazebo that is being constructed in memory of Guy Swartzlander is just about complete and will be ready before the birthday celebration.

Gene's birthday celebration will be August 14, 2005. We are looking at a very interesting day. The list of activities for this year are outlined in



another part of this letter. We hope you can attend.

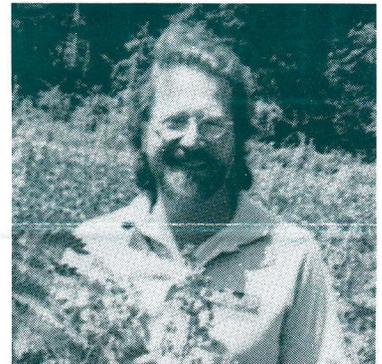
I want to remind everyone that you may make a memorial contribution to our quasi endowment fund in memory of Guy Swartzlander and/or Pat Bolman. Both men wanted to see our endowment grow to help make the site a better place in the future.

I would like to have the opportunity of meeting you at one of our special events.

## NEW STAFF PERSON ...

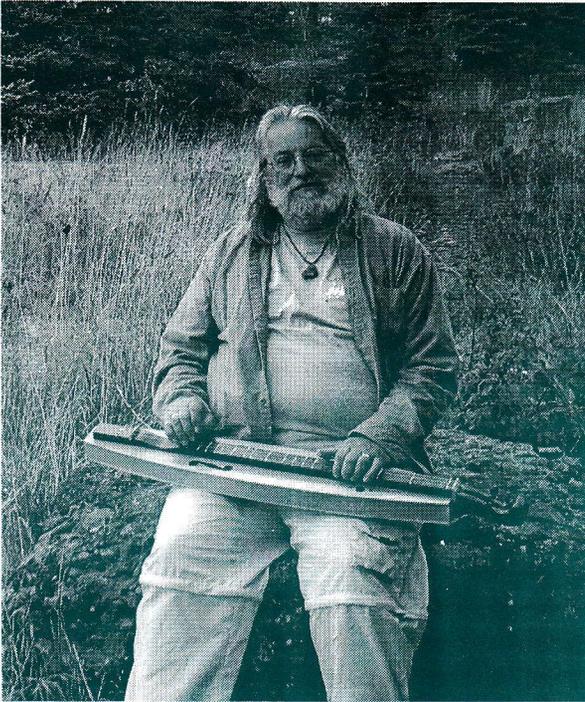
### Ed Cable

In July, we welcomed back a familiar face to the site. Ed Cable's history with Pat Bolman goes way back to 1974. As a high school boy scout ready to do his Eagle Project, he went to Fox Island where Pat had just started working as the naturalist. Ed built the board walk in the swamp under Pat's supervision, acquiring many volunteer hours assigned to him for minor mistakes. Ed became an Eagle Scout and also received a passion for the outdoor environment as a learning classroom. He was trained and directed by Pat as a field trip guide and spent many hours learning about both plants and animals. He attended Ball State College studying natural resources interpretation. In the summer, he worked with Pat at Fox Island as a paid employee and the LaGrange County Park Department. For the next 11 years, he worked with children as a Montessori teacher. From this experience he went into woodworking for awhile than went on to sell the woodworking tools. Still best friends, Ed was part of Pat's wedding. The two of them did



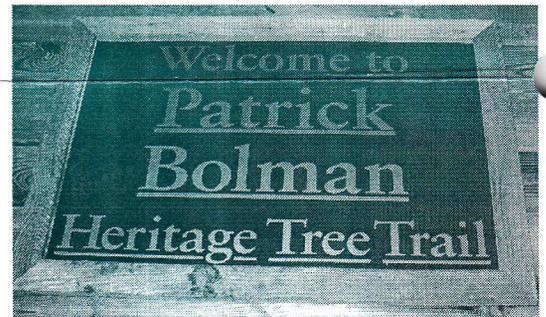
extensive traveling and camping together and enjoyed the same love of the Dulcimer. About 1997-98, Ed came to GSP as an intermittent maintenance person hired in to enhance and help work with school groups along with all the maintenance duties the site requires. In 2001, he went to Gander Mountain (an outdoor store in Fort Wayne) as a product specialist. Now, Ed is back. His immediate goal is to figure out Pat's filing system which is unique.

# TRIBUTE TO PAT BOLMAN



The genial naturalist who enjoyed nature and wanted to be close to it, loved the people and opportunities available by being part of our historic site. Pat was born February 13, 1948 in Marion, Indiana. He married Cheryl Hite on August 20, 1977 and she survived him. She remembers his days of being a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts and his former scouts remember the tremendous good influence he had on their lives. His first job was to be the naturalist at Fox Island County Park in Allen County, Indiana. Pat had to start from scratch. He got that site started and functioning along with volunteer help. He is loved and remembered by the people who knew him in Allen County. After getting married, he tried some other jobs. But, before long he had the opportunity to talk to Margie Sweeney from our site and asked if she might have a need for a naturalist. He told her the money was not important. He really wanted to get back to being a naturalist. She had an opening in maintenance, which he accepted and started working. He started helping with the work of a naturalist as much as possible even though it was not in his job description. As time went on everybody started to see the benefits of having a naturalist on staff. He started many programs to bring nature to the young people with the field trips. As time went on he managed to add special nature activities at the site. He was extremely well

recognized for his work in educating guests about a swamp. People have looked forward to the opportunity to go to a special swamp in Noble County with Pat. Only 21 people are allowed into the swamp each year. Pat was known as fun loving and a great story teller. Young people, who had previously visited the site, would ask for him as soon as they got off their bus. Pat just plain added enthusiasm and life to events. I would be amiss if I did not tell you about his passion for enthusiasm for the dulcimer. He made a number of them and just gave to others to enjoy. He was a founder of the Northeast Folk Music and Instrumental Gathering. His love for the dulcimer greatly expanded within this group. We held a memorial service for Pat at the site and were overwhelmed by the attendance and the sharing of remembrances. In his memory the historic site has established the Pat Bolman Heritage Tree Trail on the site.



## NEWS FROM HEZIKIAH.....

Since I have come back to site I have really been a busy bird. I made appearances at the Kendallville Home & Garden Show, the Taste of Noble County event, was on the pier to greet the returning Go Fish IN participants and attended the Spring Family Fun Day. I have been trying to get some rest in the Gift Shop but the visitors keep me chirping. My next big event will be the Chautauqua Parade and Gene's Birthday Party. If I haven't seen you yet, I hope to meet you soon.

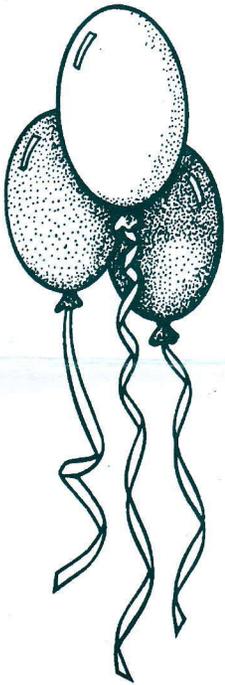


**CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE ~ [www.genestratton-porter.com](http://www.genestratton-porter.com)**

# GENE STRATTON-PORTER'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating Gene's birthday on Sunday, August 14, 2005. The site will be hopping with the Auburn Dixielanders from noon until 3:00 PM. If you are in the mood for a story, Vicki Kebellus will be providing stories at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Her presentation is titled "An Afternoon with Mrs. Porter" in verse and music. The last but not the least presenter will be Charlie the Clown. Charlie is loved by all and is becoming a regular at our events. Charlie says she will be clowning around. It will

be a great day to take one of our pontoon tours of Sylvan Lake. Crafts will be a part of the day. Young and old all seem to enjoy our crafts. If it has been a while since you have toured the cabin, why not include a tour. Now, since you are going to have an active day, something to eat and drink might be of interest. Drinks and sandwiches will be sold on the second floor of the Carriage House from Noon until 5:00 PM. Please come and celebrate with us.



## Gene Stratton-Porter's Birthday & Chautauqua Days

**Sunday, August 14, 2005**

**12 Noon - 5 PM**

**Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site  
Rome City, IN**

### **Entertainment:**

**Auburn Dixielanders - 12 Noon - 3 pm**

**Storyteller - Vickie Kilbellus - 1 pm & 3 pm**

**"An Afternoon with Mrs. Porter" in verse & music**

**Clowning around with Charlie, the Clown**

**Cabin Tours • Crafts • Pontoon Rides**

**Lunch Available from 12 Noon**

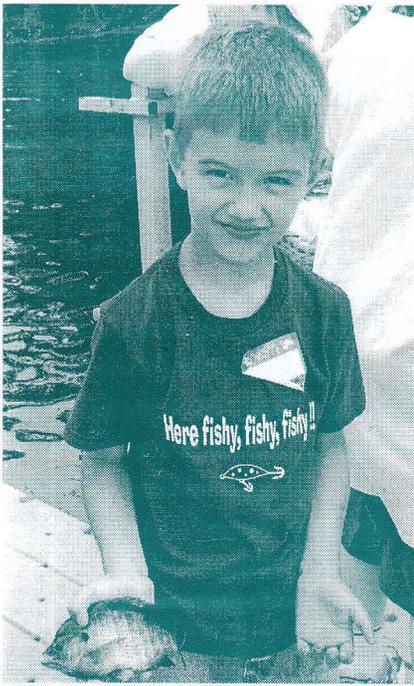
**Free Birthday Cake**

**Information: 1-260-854-3790**

**Sponsored by:**

**Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site  
Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.**





Go Fish IN was a fun event for all. After the morning class session and before the afternoon fishing experience/contest - all participants printed and painted fishing shirts and practiced casting techniques in the grass. After much practice Charlie (our clown) finally caught a fish. In the afternoon young participants enjoyed catching fish.



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



**Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 639  
 Rome City, IN 46784  
 (260) 854-3790  
[www.genestratton-porter.com](http://www.genestratton-porter.com)

- Single \$10.00
- Family 15.00
- Sustaining 20.00
- Non-Profit Org. 25.00
- Business 25.00
- Life (40 yrs. of age or older)
  - Single 100.00
  - Husband & Wife 150.00

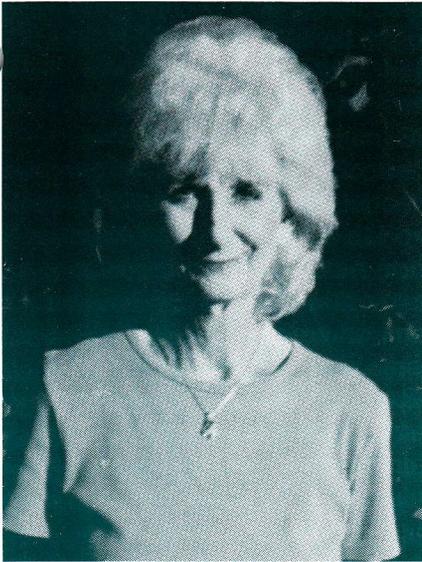
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 Name

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 Business or Organization Name

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 Address

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 City State Zip Phone

# FOCUS ON THE BOARD ... CINDY O'BRIEN



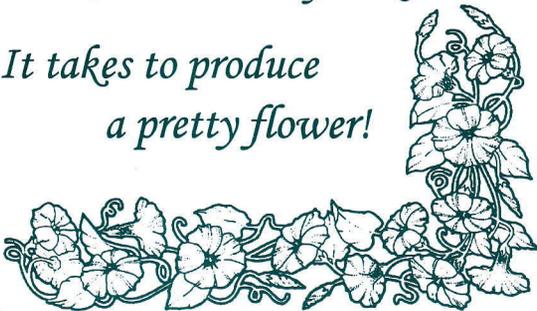
Although she is our newest member to the board as of May, 2005. Cindy O'Brien's knowledge and interest in GSP and the area go way back. She remembers going to the site and touring the cabin with her mother as she was growing up. In her GSP book collection are several of her mother's books that she had as well as her own 1925 "The Keeper of the Bees" which was a 1993 Christmas gift. The inscription in the book indicated it was originally given to someone in 1937 as a Christmas gift. She also has a 1913 "Laddie A True Blue Story" as a 2001 Christmas gift. Sylvan Lake

memories include waking up to the sounds of the Boy Scout bugles early in the morning, watching them canoeing to Rome City, taps and the "Sylvan Belle". Today's kids who like to be slimed would be jealous of the lake she use to swim in, very green and sticky. Since this was before there was hot water in the cottage, to clean off self and suit she had to heat water in a small tea kettle on the stove. Cindy also recalls attending Holy Mass and wading in the ice cold springs at Kneipp Springs. The cottage she enjoyed while growing up, she moved into in 1989 as a fourth-generation owner. Like Gene's house, it is a "museum" of collectables and family treasures. Cindy has a very long list of community and corporate activities she has been involved in since 1985. We are very fortunate that she has more time since her 2001 retirement as Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice-President of Lincoln National Corp. to join our board. One of her goals for this next year is to start reading and rereading her GSP collection. She says she has a new swing on her deck that is just waiting for her and Gene's books and if the weather is bad she will be inside on her computer.

*If people only knew how many. . .*

- ❁ *Minutes of thinking;*
- ❁ *Hours of digging;*
- ❁ *Days of sunshine;*
- ❁ *Weeks of coaxing;*
- ❁ *Months of planning;*
- ❁ *Pounds of fertilizer;*
- ❁ *Bushels of rich dirt;*
- ❁ *Gallons of water;*
- ❁ *And amount of backaches....*

*It takes to produce  
a pretty flower!*



## Spring Family Fun Day

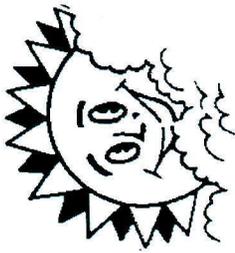


The maypole was a hit at our Spring Family Fun event. All ages grabbed a ribbon and danced to the music. Much weaving and twisting of the ribbons took place. All had a fun time.



# Gene Stratton-Porter STATE HISTORIC SITE

Limberlost North,  
Rome City, Indiana



## EVENTS 2005

### TEA PARTY AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

**August 8, 2005**

A traditional tea with refreshments & entertainment.  
12 noon - 1:30 pm tours of Cabin & Gardens.  
2pm tea at the Carriage House with "Gene."  
Program by Juanita Rapp. Music by Nancy Blough.  
Reservations required. Tickets on sale, June 1, 2005.

### GENE STRATTON-PORTER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**August 14, 2005**

August 14, 1pm - 4:30 pm, activities at Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site.

### FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**October 8, 2005**

1pm - 6:30 pm. Fall nature activities, hayride and crafts.

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Site decked out for the holidays. Entertainment, holiday goodies, crafts and activities. Saturday, November 12, 9am-9pm, Candlelight Walk, 6pm - 9 pm, Sunday, November 13, 12noon - 5pm

Site is open April 1, 2005 - End of November

INFORMATION: (260) 854-3790.

Please call for details on events.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE <http://www.genestratton-porter.com>

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**P.O. BOX 639 • ROME CITY, IN 46784**  
**(260) 854-3790**

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